

Dear Co-Chairs, Senator Flexer & Rep. Blumenthal,
Vice-Chairs, Sen. Slap & Rep. Morin-Bello,
Ranking Members, Sen. Sampson & Rep. Mastrofrancesco,
and Honorable Members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee,

I want us to each to ask ourselves, *"What is the true purpose of these Bills before me?" "What is the goal(s) that I hope to accomplish through these measures?" "How will this really assist the citizen's in the State of Connecticut to participate in our Democratic Republic?"*

I see here on the list of 7 Proposed Bills,

- 2 Bills that pertain to No-Excuse Absentee Voting (SJ 29 & HJ 1)
- 3 Bills that pertain to Early Voting (HB 5004, SB 1057 & SB 6693)
- (2 of which require Same-Day, Election/Primary Registration)
- 1 Bill having to do with Transparency in the Voting Process

Why do we need both No-Excuse Absentee Voting, plus Early Voting?

And why must there be Same-Day Election & Same-Day Primary Voting at the same time as Early Voting?

As a Registered Voter, a dedicated Poll Worker, a CT Certified Moderator, a newly appointed Deputy Assistant Registrar, and an individual who has canvassed neighborhoods & communities throughout the State for years encouraging people to vote, I am exasperated that in the discussion today there are not instead:

- 3 Bills having to do with Transparency
- 2 Bills pertaining to Updating our Voting Process
- 1 bill having to do with increasing Voter Access

I can tell you from the doors I have knocked on, the houses, train stations, grocery stores, fairs & festivals that I have canvassed for political candidates in CT, that our Citizens are completely disillusioned with the voting process in this State.

"My vote doesn't count," I often hear. "They just cheat anyway!" Or, "It's all fixed ahead of time."

These CT citizens feel disenfranchised by the chaotic, easily manipulated process we have - with little or no transparency.

As I have attended audits, and observed & participated in the process in more depth myself, I feel the same way.

If the voters, poll workers and government employees were all virtuous, certainly there would be no issues. But we all know that **not everyone is honest!**

And if an individual is dishonest, they will have no problem swearing & signing a paper that says they are not telling a lie. And if there are not proper safeguards and opportunities to recognize whether the voting individual is virtuous or not, it gives ample opportunity for fraud. And *that is disenfranchising the Voters of CT. And many of them know it.*

If the purpose of these bills is to ensure that our voting process is as accessible as possible to Citizens who wish to vote and ensuring that our Constitutional Republic accurately represents the will of the people, then **we should be just as concerned about protecting against fraudulent activity as we are with voter access.**

Every day that we add to the voting process leaves us open to greater fraud – not to mention expense!
And how will this affect our elections if current results are reported or leaked during the multiple day voting process?

Those who care about their community & the government they elect will choose to research the candidates and be present, or give their valid reason to apply for a traditional Absentee Ballot. Voting should not be taken for granted. It is a grave responsibility.

And if the voter cannot bother to register prior to Election Day, how can that individual possibly be equipped with the necessary knowledge to vote for representatives who will accurately represent that voter or their concerns?

Moreover, if voters are allowed to register with a political party on the Same-Day as that Primary, how do we know that they are actually in alignment with that party or if they are instead attempting to subvert the outcome for the part they oppose?

Because of the continual issue with fraud inherent in the process of Absentee Ballots, I oppose, and **strongly urge that this body oppose both**

- S.J. No. 29 (Comm) Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- H.B. No. 6693 (Raised) An Act Concerning Absentee Voting

Due to the incredible cost to local municipalities unaddressed in these bills, and the lack of accurate measures to deal with the excessive increase in possible fraudulent activity posed by multiple days of keeping the Polls Open, **I also strongly urge this body to oppose**

- H.B. No. 6693 (Raised) An Act Concerning Absentee Voting
- S.B. No. 1057 (Raised) An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State and Early Voting
- S.B. No. 1064 (Raised) An Act Concerning the Implementation of Early Voting

The only Bill in this list that will address concerns about transparency that I can actually **support** is

- S.B. No. 713 (Comm) An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Absentee Ballot Applications

If we are to have Early Voting in the State of CT, what is the further need for No-Excuse Absentee voting or Same-Day Election/Primary Registration?

If an individual can Early Vote, why would they need a No-Excuse Absentee ballot – since there will be multiple days for them to Vote In-Person?

Thank you for your time and attention in reading my testimony.
Sincerely, K